[B.L.] 214

ORDERS CONCEIVED BY the Lords of his Maieſties Priuie Councell, and by his Highneſſe ſpeciall direction, commanded to be put in execution, for the reſtraint of *killing and eating of Fleſh this next Lent, and to be executed aſwell by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbs of London, and by the Officers of the Liberties and exempt places in and about the ſame, as by order to be preſcribed through all the Counties of this Realme, to the Iuſtices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and Officers of Corporate Townes.*

Februarie 5. in the tenth yeere of his Maieſties Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

THE Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie, vnderſtanding of the great diſorders heretofore, and eſpecially the laſt Lent, committed in killing and eating of Fleſh in the time of Lent, chiefly in the Citie of London, and the confining parts, and what negligence, or rather contempt hath beene ſhewed in the execution of ſuch directions, as haue in former yeeres beene conceiued, and publiſhed by his Maieſties expreſſe commandement, for a rule of order and moderation, and the due obſeruance of ſo neceſſary a Conſtitution, as might beſt ſuite with the policie of State, and the Lawes and Statutes of the Realme; hath giuen charge and commandement, that a more ſeuere and ſtricter courſe be now taken, for the preuenting of ſuch ill conſequents, as may enſue by the libertie taken of all ſorts of people, and the little difference made betweene this and other times, in the vſe of thoſe things which were prohibited, and are to ſerue for a Supply for the whole yeere following: and therefore is pleaſed to command all perſons to whom it may appertaine, to ſee theſe Orders following duely obſerued and put in execution.

FIrſt, whereas it appeareth, that the chiefeſt cauſe of theſe diſorders hath growne from the Licences, that haue been granted to Butchers to kill and vtter fleſh contrary to Law: and that it is plaine that no Maior, Iuſtice of Peace, or other perſon, of what degree or qualitie ſoeuer, can grant any Licence in this kinde; And that We of his Maieſties Priuie Councell doe forbeare to grant any ſuch Licence, or to giue way thereunto: It is therefore ordered vpon the Penalties prouided by Lawe, and ſuch further puniſhment to be inflicted vpon the offenders, as ſhall bee thought meet, that no ſuch Licence be granted for the killing or vttering of fleſh, and that no Butcher, or other perſon whatſoeuer, doe kill, vtter or put to ſale any fleſh contrary to the Lawes eſtabliſhed and prouided in that behalfe.

AND for the auoyding of ſuch inconueniences, as haue riſen by diſorders in this kinde: The Lord Maior of London, and euery other Officer and Iuſtice of Peace, ſhal call before them, and ſend for any of the ſeruants of any Inholders, Victualers, Cookes, Tauernors, and keepers of ordinary Tables, and ſuch others that vtter Victuals, to examine them vpon their corporall oathes, What fleſh is, or hath beene during the Lent ſeaſon, dreſſed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houſes; Which if they ſhall refuſe to doe, then to commit to Priſon the ſaid ſeruants, ſo refuſing vpon their oathes to declare the trueth.

THat the Lord Maior ſhall now preſently before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cauſe all Inholders, Keepers of ordinary Tables, Victualers, Alehouſe keepers, and Tauernors, Within the Citie and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or ſuch perſons as hee ſhall appoint meete for that purpoſe, and ſhall take Bonds with ſufficient Sureties of euery of them in good ſummes of money, viz. one hundreth pounds the Principall, and the Sureties thirtie pounds apiece, to his Maieſties vſe, not to dreſſe any Fleſh in their houſes this Lent time, for any reſpect, nor ſuffer it to be eaten: The like Bonds with Sureties ſhall be taken of the like perſons, vpon like Penalties

by the chiefe Officers of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof, and euery of the said Bonds to be certified into his Maiesties Exchequer.

AND for the Butchers and others that come with victuals of flesh out of the Country to the Citie; the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates, and other like places in the Suburbs, where flesh may bee brought in, to vieWe and search, and to intercept the same: and if any of those watchmen be found negligent, and corrupt in his charge, then hee to be committed to Prison during the whole Lent.

AND to the end the Fishermen may imploy themselues to Sea, With better incouragement then heeretofore; And that the Fishmongers may furnish themselues With such store from time to time hereafter, as shall be expedient aswell for the prouision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates: They are hereby required to take notice of his Maiesties commandement, and constant resolution for the obseruance of Lent, and Fish dayes both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

AND forasmuch as the vse and libertie now taken, is so farre declined from the abstinence, and moderation of former times, as instead of fasting, & forbearing Suppers vpon Fridayes both in Lent, and other times, which heretofore was duely obserued: there is now nothing more vsuall, then to make speciall choise of Friday nights for Suppers & entertainment: And to marke out those dayes for ryot and excesse, to the great offence and scandal of Gouernment: for the auoyding whereof, as it is to be wished, that euery man would be a rule of order to himselfe in his own house, aswell in respect of the Publique, as of his priuate ease and commoditie: So his Maiestie doth straitly charge and command all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinarie Tables, Victualers, Alehouse keepers, and Tauernors, not to make any Supper for any person, or persons whatsoeuer vpon Friday nights either in Lent or out of Lent, nor to suffer any Meat to be then dressed, vttered, sould, or eaten in their houses, vpon such punishment, as is due to those that shall contemne his Maiesties Royall pleasure and commandement.

AND as these Orders are expressely deuised to bee executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same: So his Maiesties pleasure and Commandement is, that the execution of these, or like Orders be performed by the commandement of his Maiesties Iustices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and to all other Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties, With like order for the Bonds to be taken to his Maiesties vse, & certified into the Exchequer. And that no manner of toleration, fauour or conniuencie be vsed by any Iustice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of these Orders, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to tolerate the offence, as also the Partie himselfe offending, will answere the same at their vttermost perils. It being his Maiesties expresse pleasure, that his Lawes in this case shall bee hereafter seuerely executed vpon all offenders whatsoeuer.

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